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Double transplant for lung-disease woman

By CANDICE KRIEGER

A YOUNG woman suffering from a life-threatening lung disease is recovering in Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, after a double lung transplant.

Justine Laymond, 33, had been waiting for a transplant since being diagnosed with advanced-stage lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) in April 2005.

Since her diagnosis, her online diary of her struggle against the degenerative condition — which has destroyed all of her right lung and most of the left — has received some half-a-million hits.

On Sunday, Ms Laymond was informed of the available donor and the nine-hour operation was performed on Monday. Her condition is described as stable.

In a statement to the JC from her hospital bed on Wednesday, Ms Laymond said: "It is just so wonderful to be alive." Prior to the surgery, her health had deteriorated considerably and she had spent three and a half months in hospital on breathing support.

Her father, Barry, was positive about the future: "It's unbelievable," he said. "We have been living a nightmare for so long and now it looks like we are contemplating a fairytale ending."

Although his daughter will require daily medication and check-ups for the rest of her life, Mr Laymond is hopeful that she will be able to return home next month and lead a normal life.

www.justinelaymond.com



Justine Laymond is recovering in hospital after a nine-hour operation